

Conclusions of the International Conference *Looking Beyond the Crises: Impact of Mass Migrations on Local, Regional, National, and EU Governance*

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Conclusions

CROATIAN AND COMPARATIVE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

1. There is a need for re-defining the issue which the researchers of migrations ought to be focused on. Not only migrations, but also adjusting local (“domestic”) people to the new situation is of great importance. We consider a diverse population under the notion of “domestic” people, not a monolithic group in any sense (national, political, religious, gender, age, etc.).
2. Without any simplistic intention to reduce the complex issue of mass migrations to a single simple dimension or explanation, we consider integration and mutual adjustment of people within local communities as the focal point of researching migrations. Local turn in dealing with mass migrations is necessary in both scientific and practical work.
3. There is a predominant role of urban governments in taking care of integration. Integration is not assimilation, but recognition of diversity. Diversity of population is a smart, advantageous societal characteristic of local communities, especially in case of cities.
4. Cultural identity and recognition of diversity can serve as the main pillars or anchors of integration.
5. Recognition and respect of human, political, and social rights is an inevitable part of integration. Representative and participatory governance principles need to be highly respected.

6. The role of local public services needs to be stressed, but civil society and voluntary sector need to be involved. The capacity of both, local public sector and voluntary sector, ought to be developed. Capacity development has to be continuous, because we must recognize that migrations are becoming part of normal or quasi-normal way of living in today's world.
7. There are many possibilities and a need for:
 - a) networking of researchers and experts in the field;
 - b) mapping the situation; i.e. mapping the network of urban communities affected by migrations and assessing their capacities and needs for capacity development;
 - c) defining the criteria for empirical establishing of sanctuary cities in Europe, where legal provision and regimes do not allow for the development of sanctuary cities similar to those in the USA, and mapping these European sanctuary cities, especially in the regions that are most affected by mass migrations (South and South Eastern Europe, and others);
 - d) preparation of a Europe-wide scientific project about migrations and their impact on governance at various governmental levels.
8. Scientific community in South Eastern Europe has to:
 - a) embrace studies of mass migrations into public administration as an academic discipline,
 - b) motivate newcomers, young assistants and other researchers to focus their research on mass migrations and their impact on local, national, and European governance.

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